

Comprehensive and Strategic Plans for Public Transportation

Emerging Issues

Regional Transit Committee

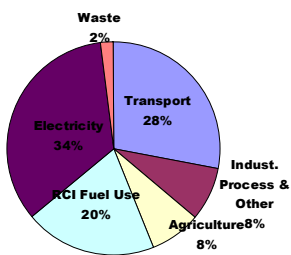
February 20, 2008

About the Briefing Papers

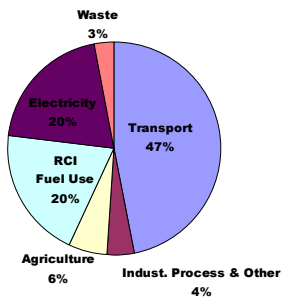
- Emerging Issues:
 - *Climate Change and Healthy Communities*
 - *Transportation System Pricing*
 - *Transit and Construction Mitigation*
- Planning for Potential System Expansion, as a response to issues
- Potential policy and strategy changes

Climate Challenge

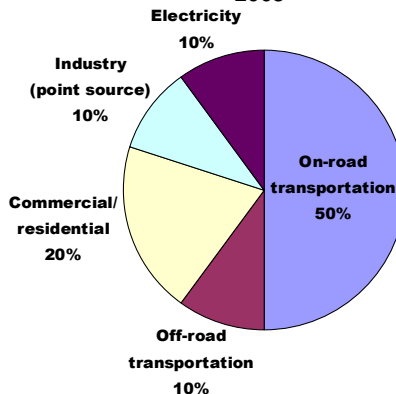
US Emissions by Sector - 2005



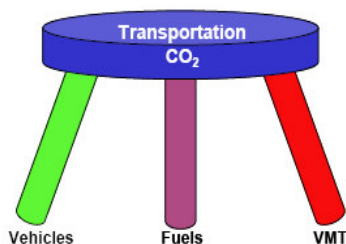
Washington Emissions by Sector - 2005



King County Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector 2003



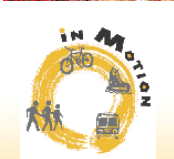
Transportation Emissions



Source: Center for Clean Air Policy (2007)

Cleaner fuels and more efficient vehicles will help, **but** to make a substantial difference in emission levels will require us to drive less.

Building on What Metro's Does Now



- Giving people choices
 - More than 110 million bus riders traveling over 513 million miles in 2007 - a 7% increase from 2006; service will expand by 20% by 2016
 - More than 1000 vans with over 2 million riders in 2007, up 20% over 2006
 - Numerous programs and services to encourage alternative travel modes such as ridematch, community-based In-Motion, and bus bike-racks
- Clean fuels, clean vehicles and green facility and practices
 - Fleet includes hybrids and no-emission trolleys
 - Uses 20% biodiesel blend in diesel bus fleet
 - Energy efficient building and business practices

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Climate Change & Public Health

Increasing automobile use leads to inactive lifestyles, rising obesity levels and associated diseases, and declining air quality



Metro Transit can help address both climate change and health issues by:

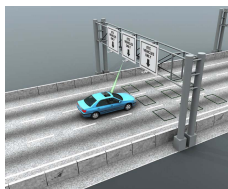
- Improving and expanding alternatives to driving
- Helping make communities more compact, healthy and active
- Reducing the emissions from our own operations

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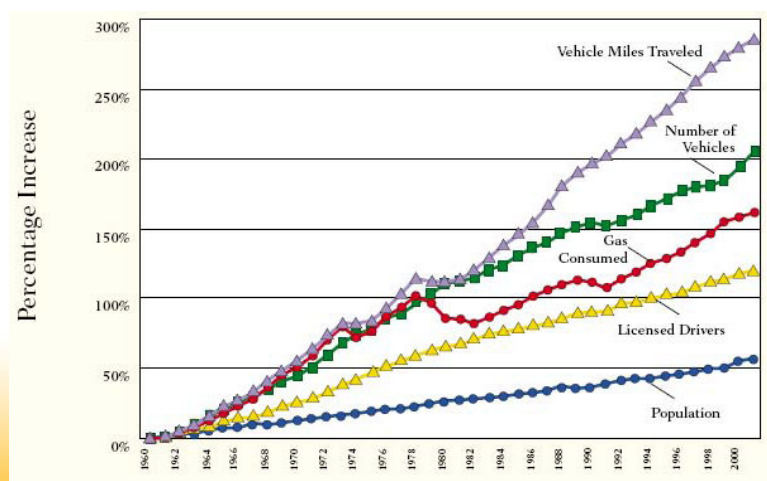
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Transportation System Pricing



- Manage transportation demand, and reduce congestion and VMT
- Raise transportation revenue
- Keep transit moving

Addressing VMT Growth



Source: http://www.wstc.wa.gov/Tolling/FR1_WS_TollStudy_Vol2_Paper04.pdf

Types of Pricing

- **High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes**
 - Single occupant vehicles can pay to use HOV lanes when there is available capacity
- **Corridor Tolling**
 - Such as traditional tolls on individual facilities
- **Cordon Toll**
 - All drivers are charged a toll when entering a designated area, such as a downtown district
- **System-wide Congestion Tolling**
 - Fees are charged on all freeways and arterials based on actual system use



Photos: Transport for London; SANDAG

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Construction Mitigation



• Numerous roadway projects have been identified for the region to address our aging infrastructure

• Given the right conditions, transit has the potential to significantly mitigate the mobility impacts of highway construction

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The Right Conditions



- Transit is given a clear path
- Transit fleet and base capacity is sufficient
- Funding is provided for operations and needed capital
- Rider incentives and comprehensive marketing is provided

•Climate Change
Mitigation



•Healthy
Communities



•Transportation
System Pricing



•Construction
Mitigation

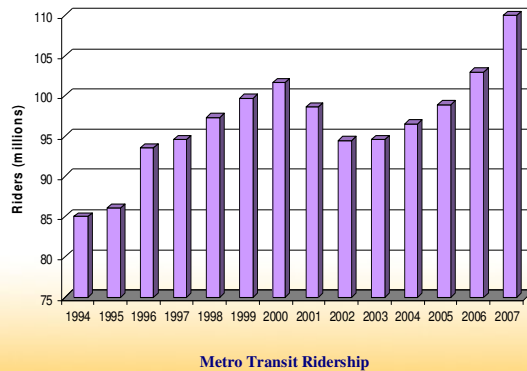


Metro's Role?



Planning for System Expansion

- Demand outpacing investments
- Additional revenue needed to meet emerging demands



Challenges and Constraints to Expansion



Capital limitations:

- Base capacity
- Coach availability
- Park and Ride Capacity



Operational constraints

- Availability and supply of operators

Policies and Strategies

1. Reduce emissions from transit operations
2. Prepare for system expansion
3. Use every dollar most effectively
4. Advocate for transportation system pricing as a market approach to manage transportation demand
5. Promote and serve compact, transit-supportive, pedestrian-friendly land uses
6. Use public transportation services to mitigate large-scale construction projects